GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2863
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2004
TRADE WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to enhance co-operation for increasing mutual trade with the ASEAN countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the year-wise quantum of trade till date since the year 2002-03 with ASEAN;

(d) the year-wise targeted quantum of trade in crore rupees under the new agreements;

(e) the value of commodities agreed upon for trade under the new agreement; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government for commercial ties in the field of technology, biotechnology etc.?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b): It has been the endeavour of the Government to enhance cooperation and trade with the ASEAN countries consistent with its `Look East Policy`. A Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and India was signed by the Prime Minister of India and the Heads of Nation / Government of ASEAN members during the Second ASEAN-India Summit on 8th October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia. This Agreement includes provisions relating to Free Trade Area in Goods, Services, Investments and has identified various areas of economic cooperation.

(c) The year-wise quantum of bilateral trade with ASEAN countries since 2002-03 has been as under :

(Value in US $ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Balance of Trade
2002-03	4618.54	5150.17	9768.71	(-) 531.63
2003-04	5798.13	7350.32	13148.45	(-)1552.19
2004-05(Apr-Aug)	2931.26	3291.86	6233.12	(-)360.60

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) & (e) No targets have been fixed as such either for quantum of trade or value of commodities under this Agreement.

(f) The Agreement provides for strengthening cooperation in various areas of economic cooperation including science & technology, bio-technology, etc.